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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 24 | Min 21 | Humidity 90% Light rain Sensex 82,200 | Nifty 25,090 | Gold 99,365 | Silver 1,14,808 | Dollar 86.24 | Euro 100.89 | GBP 116.36

FACE/OFF

Fraudsters change their names, adopt different identities, but facial recognition and image search tools help nab them years after the crime

PAGE 3

RUSH HOUR

Staggered timings and work-from-home options suggested to clear 9-10 am congestion on tech corridor roads; companies urge govt support

PAGE 7

From settling personal scores with bloody murders, to terrorising unsuspecting bystanders wielding machetes, spate of violent incidents involving rowdy-sheeters have rattled citizens

RETURN OF THE ROAD ROWDY

5 murders in 6 months involving goons with history of violence

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A wave of deadly violence linked to rowdy-sheeters is gripping the city, exposing serious gaps in law enforcement and raising alarm among citizens.

The most recent case occurred last Tuesday, when a 40-year-old history-sheeter, Shivakumar alias Biklu Shivu, was hacked to death by four unidentified assailants near his home in Halasuru. The attackers, reportedly on motorcycles and armed with machetes, struck in broad daylight and fled the spot. Police suspect an old rivalry behind the brutal murder.

This is the fifth murder involving rowdy-sheeters in six months, indicating a disturbing trend of repeat offenders running amok. On June 12, Puneeth (25), also a history-sheeter, was killed with machetes by a gang of four near Vijayalakshmi Colony in Kadugodi. His friend, who tried to intervene, was also severely injured. Police again pointed to personal rivalry.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

“Enforcement is active, but a broader, long-term strategy, including community policing, better intelligence and rehabilitation efforts, is essential to address the growing street-level violence —Official

Impurity check

Researchers say some avenue trees in city can shrug off pollutants better than others

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Increasing particulate matter and other harmful pollutants in the air are detrimental, even to the trees. However, some avenue tree species can shrug off these pollutants better than others.

When it comes to avenue trees of Bengaluru, mango, guava, honge or karanja, fig, green commiphora, and ankola trees are the best options, say researchers from the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST).

While mango, guava, honge, or karanja trees are best suited as avenue trees in the northern parts of the city, mango, fig, green commiphora, and ankola trees are more agreeable with southern Bengaluru.

To assess the health of Bengaluru's trees exposed to various human-induced factors, including pollution, IWST researchers studied trees in 48 one-hectare plots extending toward Doddaballapura in the north and Kanakapura in the south of the city. Common tree species from each zone were evaluated for their Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI).

Researchers collected fresh and mature leaf samples from trees that are consistently exposed to vehicular emissions and other anthropogenic factors, and analysed them

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

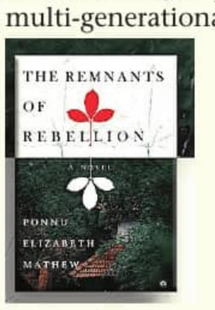
THINGS TO DO

01 Exquisite craft

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath is presenting 'Bengaluru Utsava', featuring a curated exhibition and sale of exquisite art, handicrafts, handloom products, and lifestyle items from across India.
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram;
When: Until July 27

02 Page-turner

Author Ponnu Elizabeth Mathew will be discussing her new novel 'The Remnants of Rebellion', inspired by her grandfather's life in Kerala in the 1960s, in conversation with journalist Ammu Joseph. The multi-generational



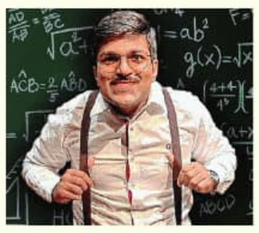
story spanning two timelines explores political uprisings, personal estrangement, and the quiet costs of resistance.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: July 26, 6 pm

03 Celebrating poetry

Atta Galatta is presenting the 9th edition of the Bengaluru Poetry Festival with an interesting mix of poetry performances, explorations of the connections between poetry and music, discussions about poetry, and opportunities to learn through performances and interactive sessions.
Where: Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha, Indiranagar;
When: August 2 and 3

04 Stage stories

Theatrenama is presenting 'Refund', a sharp-witted satirical play that masterfully mocks the rigid education system and questions what true knowledge really means.



Where: Samarthanam Auditorium, HSR Layout;
When: July 27, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm

Policy tug-of-war leaves students' fate uncertain

Reversal of policy abruptly cuts off fourth Honours year, with colleges refusing admissions to NEP-enrolled students to their final year citing lack of clear directives

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Without the Honours degree, the academic and career plans of students who had enrolled in courses under NEP are left in disarray

The hopes of hundreds of undergraduate students who enrolled under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to pursue a four-year Honours degree now hang in limbo, caught between conflicting policies of successive state governments.

Introduced in 2021 by the then BJP-led Karnataka government, the NEP brought significant changes to higher education, offering students the option of a four-year undergraduate program with an Honours track in the final year. However, with the change in government, the Congress-led administration has withdrawn the NEP and replaced it with the State Education Policy (SEP), effectively discontinuing the Honours pathway and reverting to a traditional three-year degree system.

As a result, students who enrolled under NEP, and have completed three years of study are now being denied admission to the fourth Honours year by colleges, leaving their academic and career plans in disarray.

What NEP offered students

Sources said that under NEP 2020, students could select two subjects of interest and study them during the first two years. In the third year, they would specialise by selecting one as a major and the other as a minor. The fourth year was designed for focused study in the major subject, culminating in an Honours degree—beneficial for students aiming for research and postgraduate studies. Crucially, a student with an Honours degree under NEP would be eligible to directly pursue a PhD or complete a one-year postgraduate course instead of the standard two years.

> **"We were promised an Honours track when we joined. Now, after three years, we are told there's no provision for the fourth year. What are we supposed to do with half an education?**
> –Balachandra, a student

Back to square one

However, with the introduction of the SEP, all NEP-based four-year programmes have been scrapped. Now, only traditional three-year undergraduate programmes are recognised in Karnataka, much like the pre-NEP era. This policy reversal has left NEP students, who had planned for four years of study, abruptly cut off from the fourth Honours year. According to students, multiple universities and colleges have refused to offer Honours admissions this year, citing a lack of clear directives from the Department of Collegiate Education or the universities.

"We were promised an Honours track when we joined. Now, after three years, we are told there's no provision for the fourth year. What are we supposed to do with half an education?" said Balachandra, a student who was hoping to enrol in the Honours year.

Institutions left clueless

A Government First Grade College principal said that at least 22 students from his college have completed the three-year NEP program and are demanding entry into the Honours year. "We have not received any communication from the University or the Higher Education Department regarding how to proceed. The students are in a difficult position, and we don't have answers," he said.

Loss of opportunities

Without the Honours degree, students now have no choice but to appear for postgraduate entrance exams, pursue a two-year master's programme, and only then become eligible for a PhD – a setback of at least two years compared to the NEP path.

B'luru Tech Summit 2025 to be held in November

The 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) will be held from November 18 to 20, 2025, announced Ekroop Caur, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, during the Global Collaboration Meet in Bengaluru.

Organised by the state government in partnership with industry stakeholders, BTS is a flagship platform that connects global technology leaders, startups, researchers, and policymakers. This year's edition is expected to attract over 1 lakh attendees, including 20,000+ startup founders, 1,000 investors, 15,000 delegates, and 600 speakers.

The Global Collaboration Meet, part of the Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) initiative, witnessed participation from countries like the UK, USA, Australia, Germany, Japan, and Switzerland. Since its launch in 2017, GIA has expanded from 10 countries to 35 in 2025, strengthening Karnataka's international tech partnerships. **–BMB**

Delay in sports calendar sparks concerns

Even two months after schools reopened in Karnataka, the Department of School Education and Literacy has yet to release the official sports calendar, leaving physical education (PE) teachers and sports-enthusiastic students disheartened. Despite having over 46,757 government schools with 42.92 lakh students, thousands of young athletes who actively train every day have been left waiting without clarity on competition schedules. Typically, the sports calendar is announced in June, with events kicking off in July and progressing from hobli to state level. However, in many districts, the local education office has instructed schools not to conduct any sports meets until further notice, even though the events should have commenced in July. As a result, the usual timeline for district and state-level competitions—culminating in national-level participation by November or December—is now in jeopardy. Low funding and bureaucratic delays are compounding the problem. **–BMB**

Restrictions on public access to BU Campus

Bangalore University (BU) is preparing to impose partial restrictions on public access to its Jnanabharathi campus, starting with the closure of the road from Nagarabhavi Gate to the administrative block. The decision was taken during a recent Syndicate meeting, citing repeated incidents of sandalwood theft, student harassment, accidents, and environmental damage. While there have been long standing demands from students, faculty, and staff for a complete ban on public entry, opposition from local residents—especially those using the campus roads for daily commute and morning walks—has led the university to consider a phased approach. Official orders are expected soon, with the first phase targeting the stretch near the National Law School side. A BU official said that there is a need for coordination with civic bodies before imposing restrictions. **–BMB**

You can run for 7 years, but you can't hide

CBI nabs accused in bank fraud case from 2009 using facial recognition and image search tools

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In a major breakthrough using facial recognition and image search technology, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Nasreen Taj, a proclaimed offender in a high-profile ₹12.63 crore Syndicate Bank fraud case, who had been absconding for nearly seven years.

Taj was traced and arrested from Bengaluru on July 19, while living under the alias 'Salma', following a detailed analysis of her digital footprint and online behaviour. Investigators used advanced tech tools to match images and track activity, supplemented by field surveillance to pinpoint her location.

The fraud dates back to 2009, when the CBI registered a case against the then Branch Manager of Syndicate Bank in Mandya, Asadullah Khan, and eight others, including his wife, Nasreen Taj. Despite having no independent income, Taj secured a ₹1.2 crore Temporary Overdraft (TOD) and ₹55 lakh in farm loans using forged documents. The loans, meant for agriculture, were misused to repay the TOD, violating lending terms.

Taj had been untraceable since 2019, failing to respond to repeated summons and non-bailable warrants. In 2021, a proclamation and property attachment order was issued by a special court, but efforts to locate her remained unsuccessful until recently.

According to officials, she had severed ties with her family and social circles, frequently changing her residence and identity, and misled locals and employers by maintaining minimal contact. This significantly complicated tracing efforts.

The CBI eventually cracked the case using identity-tracking databases and image-matching algorithms, leading to her identification and arrest. Taj has been remanded to judicial custody and will now face trial.

> **"The accused were traced using image search tools, with over 90% photo match accuracy, despite their altered appearances** –Police official

Second such arrest in a week

This is the second such arrest by the CBI in less than a week. In a similar case, Mani M Sekhar, accused in a ₹8 crore SBI fraud case dating back to 2006, was arrested in Indore on July 12, after evading trial for nearly two decades. She and her husband, RM Sekhar (now deceased), were declared proclaimed offenders in 2009. Both had completely changed their identities/names, KYC, mobile numbers, PAN, and other personal data.

CBI officials said the accused were traced using high-accuracy image search tools, with over 90% photo match accuracy, despite their altered appearances and fake documentation.

While co-accused in both cases have already faced trial and received verdicts, proceedings against these two accused had remained pending for years due to their prolonged absconding.

VIP sirens curbed to ease traffic

In an effort to reduce noise pollution and avoid public inconvenience, Karnataka's Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), MA Saleem, has issued a directive to all police unit heads to strictly limit the use of sirens by VIP escort vehicles to emergency situations only. The circular, released on Monday, targets the frequent and often disruptive use of sirens, especially in urban areas, where it contributes to traffic chaos, panic, and sound pollution.

Saleem noted that unnecessary siren use not only disturbs the public but also poses a serious security risk by alerting unauthorized individuals about VIP movements. Additionally, it often results in confusion among motorists, leading to reckless driving and increased congestion on busy city roads.

To address these concerns, the directive mandates that VIP escort teams rely on wireless communication to coordinate movements. This alternative, Saleem said, is safer, more efficient, and does not draw unwanted public attention. Only genuine emergency response vehicles such as ambulances, fire engines, and police patrols will be permitted to use sirens.

The move aligns with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's consistent stand against the zero-traffic protocol for VIPs. Shortly after assuming office, he had declared that neither he nor his ministers would avail of preferential traffic clearance. He reaffirmed this stance during a senior officials' meeting in July last year.

While police had previously cited security concerns to justify limited zero-traffic arrangements, the latest directive signals a shift toward more public-centric traffic management.

— BMB

Low turnout, but intense talk at BMRCL's meet to discuss axing

BMRCL says only 6,800 trees will be cut, rest will be pruned or transplanted

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Citizens question BMRCL's vague tree relocation plans during hurriedly arranged consultation session

A public consultation meeting convened by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) on Monday to discuss the Corporation's plan to cut 11,137 trees for its Phase 3 corridors saw weak representation from the public.

The meeting in Padmanabhanagar drew just around 40 residents from JP Nagar, Jayanagar, and surrounding areas. Many attendees expressed frustration over the short notice. "It is concerning that public notices are issued with barely a day's notice and during working hours, leaving little time for citizens to respond," said Parvathi Srirama of Parisarakkagi Navu, a citizens' environmental collective. "Most participants got to know about the meeting on Sunday. For a decision of this magnitude, people should be given at least 30 days' notice. Such sessions should ideally be held over weekends."

Despite the turnout, discussions were intense. BMRCL representatives informed attendees that of the 11,137 trees identified, only 6,800 would be cut, while the remaining would either be pruned or transplanted. However, the lack of clarity on how many trees would be pruned versus transplanted and where the transplanted trees would go was a key concern for citizens.

> **"Public notices issued with barely a day's notice during working days leave no time for citizens to respond**
> –Parvathi Srirama of Parisarakkagi Navu, environmental collective

"It's important the transplanted trees remain within the locality," said a JP Nagar resident at the meet.

Citizens also proposed that BMRCL identify residential layouts with minimal green cover across the city for compensatory plantation. Some even recommended a city-wide audit to assess areas in need of urgent afforestation.

The BMRCL's Detailed Project Report (DPR), published in December 2023, had revealed that over 11,000 trees would be affected during the construction of the 44.65-km Phase 3 metro line covering 31 stations. The DPR outlined planning parameters including peak hour traffic, passenger evacuation time, and accessibility features for people with disabilities.

Environmentalists stress the importance of preserving urban trees in the wake of alarming climate trends. "A recent study shows a 15°C rise in Bengaluru's temperature between 1993 and 2023. This drastic change is directly tied to rampant tree felling and poor afforestation efforts," said Vinod Jacob from the Namma Bengaluru Foundation. He urged that BMRCL, along with the BBMP Forest and Horticulture departments, adopt a transparent and sustainable approach to minimise tree loss.

BMRCL will hold two more consultation meetings on Tuesday in Vijayanagar and Nagarabhavi, and one in Sanja Nagara on Wednesday.

Street play and cleanup drive raise awareness

With drama and action, volunteers in Jayanagar spotlight plastic pollution's impact, calling on citizens to reduce waste and support cleaner, greener communities

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A group volunteers and BBMP Marshals at Jayanagar Shopping Complex

A group of volunteers gathered on Saturday to create awareness among the public and street vendors about the ill-effects of single-use plastic. They organised The Plastic Asura, a skit performed at the BDA Shopping Complex in Jayanagar 4th Block. The event, spearheaded by the Indian Ploggers Army, aimed to highlight the growing problem of single-use plastics and promote responsible waste management.

The clean-up drive saw enthusiastic participation from the Radio Mirchi team and SWM Resource Team boys, who joined the Indian Ploggers Army. Together, they collected over eight sacks of garbage within a 500-meter radius. Most of the waste comprised single-use plastics like cups, spoons, and plates, underscoring the ongoing challenge these items pose in busy areas.

Interactions with local waste pickers and pourakarmikas highlighted the ongoing littering problem, as they shared their daily struggles with waste accumulation. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) team offered vital support for the event's smooth execution, while local shopkeepers also extended their cooperation, reinforcing the community's role in waste management.

A key highlight of the initiative was Plastic Asura, a street play that captivated onlookers and vividly portrayed the harmful effects of single-use disposables. The impactful performance evoked shock and reflection, reinforcing the urgent need for a shift in public behaviour.

> **"Karnataka has been a pioneer in banning plastic bags. With stricter monitoring and penalties for repeat offenders, it can lead the nation in combating plastic pollution**
>
> –Indian Ploggers Army representative

"Karnataka has been a pioneer in imposing plastic bags, and with stricter monitoring and penalties for repeat offenders, it can truly lead the nation in combating plastic pollution," stated a representative from the Indian Ploggers Army. "However, the onus equally lies on every citizen to embrace responsible consumption and disposal habits."

This initiative aligns with the spirit of #PlasticFreeJuly and calls for collective action to ensure a cleaner, healthier Bengaluru.

Stating that using steel is the best, plastic only creates problems not only for humans but also for animals, Shivakumar, a volunteer, said that plastic asura drama was an eye opener and requested many people to come forward to plog so that they experience what littering can cause.

Bharathy Jayaprakash, a volunteer, said the plog conducted by Radio Mirchi and the Indian Ploggers Army in Jayanagar was eye-opening. "Working in a corporate job, you seldom realise how many disposables are used in a single day. Sadly, nano plastics have now entered our soil, food, water—even mother's milk. Plastic Asura, the skit, beautifully depicted how plastic, in the form of a mythological demon, is destroying the good—whether it's the nutrients in our soil or the health of animals. It was a powerful representation of how plastic has captured our planet. We hope more such awareness campaigns are held to help people understand both the problem and the solution to pollution," she said.

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Authority inaction
Hospital Road

Encroachments on Hospital Road in Chickpet persist unchecked, with civic authorities ignoring violations by local building owners.

Waste zone
HAL

Unregulated garbage dumping on the road to the new FA flats in HAL has become a major hygiene and civic concern.

Transit trouble
HSR Layout

The Agara bus stop, crucial for HSR Layout commuters, has been shifted to the flyover's start due to Metro work. The new location is poorly maintained and inaccessible, with even basic cleaning urgently needed.

Unions protest BMRCL's metro staff outsourcing

Yellow line metro file photo

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is facing criticism for outsourcing train operations on the upcoming yellow and pink lines. Employee unions have condemned the move, calling it a backdoor recruitment tactic that jeopardises passenger safety. Unlike Phase 1, where loco pilots were directly hired, BMRCL now plans to fill key roles—including loco pilots and station operators—through private contractors. Staff allege this is an attempt to sidestep accountability in case of operational lapses or accidents. They are demanding the immediate withdrawal of the tender, warning that such outsourcing undermines public trust and compromises the quality and safety of metro services.

Union leaders argue that outsourced operators may lack proper training and accountability. They point to the failed model in Hyderabad, where contract-based loco pilots faced salary delays and mismanagement. Concerns have also been raised over legal compliance, safety standards, and the reliability of private contractors. BMRCL, however, clarified that the outsourcing is a temporary measure to address the current shortage of trained drivers and ensure a smooth launch of the new routes. Still, the union insists that only direct recruitment guarantees transparency, safety, and opportunities for local employment. **–BMB**

Gruha lakshmi funds boost women's enterprise

The Karnataka government is launching 'Gruha Lakshmi Sanghas'—self-help groups modelled on the Stree Shakti initiative—for beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. Women receiving 2,000 monthly under the scheme will be encouraged to form groups of 4 to 10 members and deposit their funds into a joint bank account. Annually, this can amount to 96,000 for four members or 2.4 lakh for ten. Based on this pooled amount, banks will offer collateral-free loans ranging from 3 lakh to 5 lakh, without the need for guarantors. The funds can be used to start micro-enterprises, open eateries, purchase agricultural equipment, or pursue any trade that aligns with the group's interests. The initiative aims to transform passive financial assistance into active income generation, thereby economically empowering 1.24 crore women across Karnataka. The Department of Women and Child Development will implement the programme on a pilot basis in selected districts beginning in October, before expanding it across the state. To support this, the government will partner with institutions like NABARD, Regional Rural Banks, and Apex Bank to ensure access to affordable, low-interest credit. **–BMB**

SC quashes ED's appeal in MUDA case

The Supreme Court (SC) rejected the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Special Leave Petition challenging the Karnataka High Court's decision to quash ED notices issued to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi BM, and Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh regarding the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stands as the primary accused.

Chief Justice BR Gavai expressed strong concerns, drawing from his experience with similar matters in Maharashtra. He cautioned, "Please do not force us to say something. Otherwise, we will have to make some very harsh remarks about the ED. Let political battles be fought among the electorate. Why are you allowing yourself to be used for this?"

The court found no errors in the single judge's reasoning and dismissed the petition. ASG SV Raju requested to withdraw the petition, asking it to not be considered precedential. The Chief Minister's office subsequently stated that justice prevailed, ending ED's involvement in the MUDA case.

The ED had issued notices to Parvathi BM and Minister Byrathi Suresh regarding alleged money laundering in the MUDA scam. On March 7, the Karnataka High Court invalidated these summons, with Justice M Nagaprasanna ruling on petitions challenging the ED's actions.

Parvathi's legal team argued against ED's parallel investigation whilst Lokayukta police and SIT were already investigating. The ED's representative, Additional Solicitor General Arvind Kamath, maintained that Parvathi was the second accused and received proceeds of crime. Minister Suresh's counsel argued against the summons as his client wasn't an accused.

The case centres on allegations that 14 compensatory sites in Vijayanagar Layout were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife in Mysuru city, with higher property values compared to her acquired land. MUDA allocated plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme for 3.16 acres of her land.

COURT

'Claimant must provide proof for insurance'

The Karnataka High Court's Dharwad bench has ruled that when insurance policy existence is claimed, the onus of proof rests with the owner or claimant, not the insurer. Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar delivered this judgement whilst absolving the insurance company from compensation payment obligations.

In an incident that took place on September 2, 2011, an electrician, Kanti alias Kanteppa, was riding in an auto rickshaw when it toppled due to reckless driving, resulting in Kanti's death. Subsequently, his wife Mallamma and children approached the tribunal for compensation. The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Ballari, on July 7, 2012, granted Rs 5,33,000 compensation with 6 per cent yearly interest, based on the insurance policy cover note issued by the company. Both parties subsequently appealed for increased compensation.

The court highlighted that under sub-rule 2 of Rule 142 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, cover notes maintain validity for only sixty days from issuance. The contract finalises only when the vehicle owner pays the premium through any payment mode.

In this particular case, whilst the accident occurred on September 2, 2011, the cover note was issued on April 29, 2011. The court noted that the vehicle owner failed to demonstrate premium payment proof for the policy, rendering the cover notes as mere proposals.

The court cited section 3 of the Indian Evidence Act, stating that negative evidence is inadmissible. The responsibility of proving fact existence lies with the party asserting it. However, neither the owner nor the claimant demonstrated proof of the insurance policy's existence.

Based on Karnataka State Legal Service Authority's notional income guidelines, the court increased compensation to Rs 15,50,600 with 6 per cent yearly interest, considering the deceased was 38 years old with a monthly income of Rs 6,000.

The court instructed the auto rickshaw owner to provide the determined compensation to the deceased's family members.

BBMP's e-Khata system exposes widespread property tax evasion

Documents submitted by property owners help verify true extent and usage of each property and enable civic body to cross-check for under-reported dimensions and misclassified tax types, says BBMP official

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In a major administrative success, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)'s newly implemented e-Khata system—designed to curb fraudulent property transactions and fake document creation—has emerged as a powerful tool in exposing large-scale property tax evasion and boosting revenue collections. The system, operational since October 1, 2023, has already resulted in an additional Rs 500 crore being recovered from tax evaders.

BBMP officials report that documents submitted by property owners to obtain final e-Khatas have revealed discrepancies that point to massive under-reporting of property size and misuse of residential tax rates for commercial buildings. These loopholes, which were previously exploited under the self-declaration model of property tax, are now being closed.

Over 5.5 lakh e-Khatas issued

Since the rollout of the e-Khata system, over 5.5 lakh final e-Khatas have been issued. Additionally, BBMP has made 25 lakh draft e-Khatas available online for public access. As per BBMP rules, every property within its jurisdiction must now register under the e-Khata system.

> **"Since the rollout of the e-Khata system, over 5.5 lakh final e-Khatas have been issued, along with 25 lakh draft e-Khatas available online for public access**

A BBMP official said that property owners must submit a range of documents, including Aadhaar card, sale deed, property tax ID, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) electricity connection number, and photographs of the property to obtain a final e-Khata.

"These documents help verify the true extent and usage of each property and enable BBMP to cross-check for under-reported dimensions and misclassified tax types," said the official.

Widespread evasion unearthed

The review of documents submitted for e-Khata registration has revealed that thousands of property owners had misused the self-declared property tax system by falsely reporting lower property dimensions or paying residential tax rates on commercially used properties.

\So far, BBMP has already recovered Rs 500 crore from such evasions. An estimated 5 lakh properties have declared inaccurate measurements and paid reduced tax. These findings suggest that e-Khata scrutiny is proving instrumental in plugging revenue leaks.

Revenue boost expected

For the current financial year (2025–26), BBMP has set a target of collecting Rs 6,256 crore in property taxes. As of now, it has collected Rs 2,966 crore, with officials expecting the e-Khata system alone to bring in an additional Rs 1,000 crore in the coming months.

Losses from unlisted properties

A BBMP official highlighted that property tax remains BBMP's primary source of income. "Yet, while the civic body has identified over 25 lakh properties, only around 20 lakh are currently contributing to the tax pool. This gap points to a staggering revenue loss running into crores," said the official.

The official said that in many cases, properties have remained outside the taxation radar. "BBMP is now using the e-Khata system as a strategic tool to trace and tax such assets," added the official.

Recovery notices go unanswered

Despite efforts to reach out to defaulters through notices, IVRS calls, personal visits, and physical notices, many still haven't paid. Of the 20.57 lakh property owners in 2024–25, around 3.49 lakh have defaulted.

These include 1.73 lakh long-term defaulters and 1.76 lakh defaulters from the previous year, who collectively owe Rs 390 crore.

Labourer dies while cleaning manhole in Akshay Nagar

A 31-year-old labourer died after inhaling toxic gases while cleaning a manhole in Akshay Nagar under RMC Yard police limits on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Puttaswamy, who along with another worker, Antony, was hired to clean a clogged manhole near a private construction site. Both entered the manhole without any safety gear and collapsed inside due to toxic fumes and exhaustion.

They were pulled out by others at the site and rushed to the hospital, where Puttaswamy was declared dead. Antony is currently recovering.

The RMC Yard police have registered a case under the Manual Scavenging Prohibition Act against three people who allegedly hired the labourers for the clean-up. According to police, the house owner engaged the workers on a daily wage basis but failed to provide any safety equipment.

Birthday celebration lands RTO staff in trouble

In a move that sends a strong message against misuse of government premises, the Transport and Muzrai Minister has ordered the suspension of three Regional Transport Office (RTO) staff members from Sakleshpur for celebrating a private individual's birthday during office hours.

The incident, which took place on July 11, 2025, came to light after a video of the birthday celebration held inside the Sakleshpur RTO office surfaced on YouTube and was later picked up by media outlets.

Acting on the minister's directive, the Transport Department Commissioner issued notices to Assistant Regional Transport Officer SN Madhura (Admin), Superintendent MK Girish, and Motor Vehicle Inspector NR Asha, seeking explanations.

However, their responses were deemed unsatisfactory. Considering the violation of official conduct, the three staff members were suspended.

Quarry owners threaten indefinite strike over inaction

Owners slam corruption, demand royalty from end users and decentralised document access, threatening strike if issues remain unresolved

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Federation of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crushers Owners' Associations on Monday demanded the state government consider their long-pending demands and take measures to collect the royalty from the end user instead of quarry owners. They threatened to go on an indefinite strike from December if the state government failed to address their concerns.

The quarry owners accused the government of neglecting their repeated appeals and allowing corruption to thrive within the Mines and Geology Department. They alleged that several officials, previously suspended on charges of corruption and disproportionate assets, were being reinstated and assigned to key positions where they continued to harass quarry owners under various pretexts.

"We have been urging the state government to curb corruption among officials and to explore a better mechanism for royalty collection directly from the end user. But our appeals have been ignored," said D Siddaraju, president of the federation. "Officials suspended following Karnataka Lokayukta recommendations are being reinstated within days. Their only aim is to extract bribes from us," he alleged.

The federation claims over 20 such officials have been reinstated, with no transparency or accountability. This has led to mounting frustration among those in the quarrying sector, who feel targeted by systemic inefficiencies and misuse of power.

The association also criticised Mines and Geology Minister SS Mallikarjun for showing little interest in addressing their issues, despite several meetings and written submissions.

Sanjeev V Hattihole, honorary president of the federation, called on the government to address the issue of retrospective penalties. "The penalty of ₹5 lakh per hectare being imposed is extremely harsh and unjustified," he said. He also demanded the cancellation of the GPS system that was introduced to monitor vehicle movement.

Officials suspended for corruption are swiftly reinstated, allege quarry owners demanding accountability and transparency and immediate action

> **We appeal to end corruption and collect royalty from end users, not quarry owners, to increase state revenue**
>
> –D Siddaraju President of federation

According to him, more than 27,000 vehicles are involved in transporting construction materials in and around Bengaluru. "The GPS system is now dysfunctional and has turned into a source of unnecessary complications. It's not serving the intended purpose and has become a burden for quarry owners and transporters," he said. The federation termed it a failed initiative, suggesting it had become a tool for extracting more money rather than ensuring regulatory compliance.

Another major concern raised was the lack of digitisation in the Mines and Geology Department. Hattihole said quarry owners still have to physically visit the department to obtain necessary documents, opening the door for bribery and procedural delays.

"Officials speak about environmental concerns and digital governance, yet they won't take the simple step of issuing lease documents online. This forces us to make repeated trips to Bengaluru, wasting time and money," he said.

The federation has also urged the government to empower district-level officers to issue quarry lease documents. "Currently, quarry owners from North Karnataka and other regions are forced to travel to the capital. If documents were issued at the district level, it would significantly ease the process," Hattihole added.

1.10 lakh kids in state malnourished

A recent statewide survey by the Women and Child Welfare Department has found over 1.10 lakh malnourished children in Karnataka for 2024–25, highlighting a pressing public health concern. Of the 30.87 lakh children screened across 31 districts, 1.01 lakh were moderately malnourished, while 9,526 fell into the severely malnourished category. Despite ongoing initiatives like mid-day meals and egg distribution, malnutrition persists, particularly in underserved regions. In contrast, districts such as Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada reported comparatively fewer severe cases. In response, the department has introduced stricter monitoring guidelines, with officials directed to regularly track children's growth, refer severe cases to nutritional rehabilitation centres, and ensure follow-ups until full recovery. The renewed focus aims to improve intervention and reduce malnutrition rates across the state. **–BMB**

Pavagada solar park expands again

Karnataka is set to receive a major clean energy boost with the expansion of the Pavagada Solar Park in Tirumani. The government has laid the foundation stone for Phase 2 of the project, which will add 11,600 acres to the existing 10,000-acre facility, making it the world's largest solar power-generating region at 21,600 acres. With an estimated investment of ₹12,000 crore for the second phase, the expansion will increase power generation by 2,500 megawatts (MW), raising the park's total capacity to 6,000 MW. The solar park, which initially cost ₹15,000 crore, will now have a total investment of ₹27,000 crore. Beyond boosting Karnataka's renewable energy capacity, the project is expected to create 2,500 new jobs, taking the total employment to 5,000. The expansion promises to uplift the region's economy through enhanced employment opportunities and improved infrastructure, while reinforcing Karnataka's leadership in sustainable energy development. **–BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales Consumer Connect Initiative

Weekend tourist traffic curbed: Only 1,200 vehicles allowed daily

To protect Chandra Drona hills, officials cap entries, mandate online booking, and restrict peak-hour tourist traffic across key destinations

| Sridhar.Vivan
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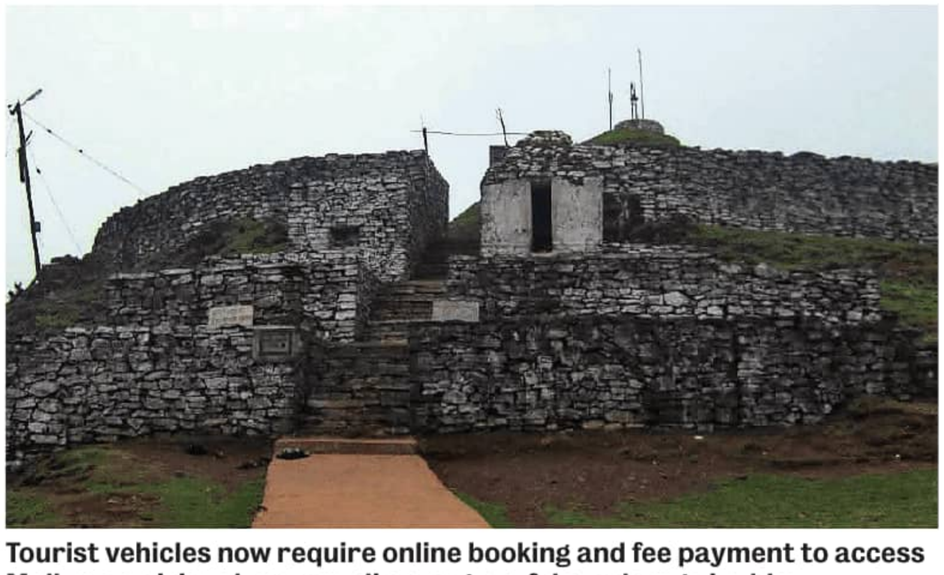
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In a bid to ease traffic congestion and protect the fragile hill environment of the Chandra Drona Mountain range, the district administration has decided to restrict vehicle entry to key tourist spots on weekends. Only 1,200 vehicles per day will be permitted in two batches, with a cap of 600 vehicles at a time.

At present, around 3,000 to 4,000 vehicles head to the hill stations every weekend, resulting in severe traffic bottlenecks and mounting environmental pressure. Popular destinations such as Mullayanagiri, Bababudangiri, Manikyadhara, Galikere, Zari Waterfalls, and Honnammanahalli draw massive crowds, prompting officials to implement a phased entry system.

According to the new regulation, vehicle access will be granted in two time slots — from 6 am to 12 pm, and from 2 pm to 5 pm — with 600 vehicles allowed in each phase. The permitted quota includes 100 two-wheelers, 100 local taxis (including jeeps and cars), 50 tempo travellers, and 350 private tourist vehicles per slot.


Tourist vehicles now require online booking and fee payment to access Mullayanagiri and surrounding spots safely and sustainably

Officials said that once the 600-vehicle limit is reached at the Kaimara check post, entry will be temporarily halted. It will reopen for the second batch at 2 pm. Tourists crossing the check post can proceed to any site of their choice.

> **Once 600 vehicles reach Kaimara check post, entry closes temporarily, resuming for the second batch at 2 pm**
>
> –An official

To streamline access, the administration has made online booking mandatory. All vehicles must be registered in advance on a dedicated website by paying a fixed entry fee — ₹100 for cars, ₹200 for minibuses, and ₹50 for two-wheelers. Local taxis are also required to register online for entry.

Staggered timings, WFH to ease tech corridor traffic

Traffic police hold meeting with key agencies, IT firms to figure out how to break 9-10 am gridlock

INFOCUS
ORR CHOKE

To tackle one of Bengaluru's biggest traffic bottlenecks, the traffic police have proposed staggered work timings and mid-week Work From Home (WFH) options for IT companies operating along the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The move is aimed at easing the critical 9 am to 10 am congestion window. Joint Commissioner of Traffic Karthik Reddy told BM, "We observed the peak hour is between 9 and 10 am. So, we've suggested staggered work timings from 7.30 am to ease the load. We've also asked companies to consider Work From Home on Wednesdays to manage mid-week congestion."

This proposal came during a meeting involving officials from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), and the traffic department. Key stakeholders including the BBMP Zonal Commissioner, BMTC Chief Traffic Manager (CTM), and Joint Commissioner Reddy attended the discussion.

Key directives included the expedited completion of pending civil works around the ORR. The traffic police requested the creation of a dedicated bus stand near major junctions to improve commuter access. In response, BMTC agreed to deploy air-conditioned buses for tech park employees. Additionally, companies have been encouraged to hire shuttle buses for employee commutes. To enhance connectivity, plans are underway to interconnect tech parks. To ensure accurate data for planning, cameras will be deployed for three consecutive days to monitor inflow and outflow of vehicles.

"Overall, the meeting was productive with all agencies committed to working in close coordination to implement viable solutions," added Reddy.

The IT Companies and Associations presented a set of recommendations from the IT sector. These include strict implementation of staggered work hours across all six working days, promotion of carpooling, and expanded BMTC-operated public transport. The association also called for tech park-level shuttle pooling, deployment of traffic marshals, bike patrol units, and encouraging employees to volunteer as traffic wardens.

A zero-tolerance policy toward illegal parking, particularly near ORR junctions and inside tech campuses, was emphasised, along with the need for immediate towing of vehicles flouting parking rules. The association also requested contingency plans for breakdowns involving buses, trucks, or tankers to prevent cascading traffic disruptions.

The IT sector demanded a ban on Heavy Transport Vehicles (HTVs) during peak hours and advance notification of WFH days, especially on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Krishna Kumar Gowda, Vice President of the Greater Bengaluru IT and Companies Association (GBICA), said, "Traffic has reached a breaking point in Bengaluru's tech zones. We are committed to doing our part, but the government must step up enforcement and infrastructure coordination. Every company must follow staggered timing strictly, and Work From Home guidelines should be properly notified in advance." **—Atiya Firdos**

The rise and rise of UPI

As per an IMF report, Unified Payments Interface, better known as UPI, launched in 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India, has changed how people send and receive money in the country.

18 billion transactions: Processed by UPI every month in India

In June: It handled over Rs **24.03** lakh crore in payments; 18.39 billion transactions Compared to last year, this signifies a **32%** rise .

The UPI system serves: **491** million individuals and **65** million merchants; connects **675** banks on a single platform

It accounts for: **85** per cent of all digital transactions in India

"These figures show more than just numbers. They reflect trust, convenience and speed. Every month, more individuals and businesses choose UPI for their payments. This growing use is a strong sign that India is moving steadily towards a cashless economy," a PIB report said.

Across borders: UPI is live in seven countries, including the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius. Its entry into France is a milestone because it is UPI's first step into Europe.

—ANI

'Ensure victims' kin, witness protection'

Naveddu Nilladiddare, If We Do Not Rise – Karnataka, a network of organisations and individuals concerned with women's issues, has put forward demands to ensure a transparent enquiry into the Dharmasthala case.They welcomed the State government's decision to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) after a sanitation worker employed by the Dharmasthala temple came forward to state that he was ready to testify about the hundreds of bodies he had buried. "This witness's vulnerability stems from the fact that he claims to be a direct witness to the series of heinous crimes committed in Dharmasthala from 1995 to 2014 that have all gone either unreported or shoddily investigated if investigated at all. Appropriate and diligent measures should be taken to ensure his safety under the 2018 Witness Protection Scheme. In addition, complete protection and support should be provided to the families of victims..." the organisation said. **BMB**

Lokayukta police arrest woman SI for taking bribe

A woman sub-inspector with the Govindapura police station in Bengaluru has been arrested by the Karnataka Lokayukta police for accepting a bribe to close a criminal case. The officer, identified as Savithri Bai, allegedly demanded 1.25 lakh from the accused, Mohammed Younus, to file a closure report in a case involving charges of assault and outraging a woman's modesty. Based on a complaint, Lokayukta officials laid a trap and caught her red-handed while taking the bribe. She has been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Further investigations are on. **BMB**

AROUNDTHEWORLD

Bangladesh: Training aircraft crashes into school, 19 dead

A Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed into a school campus in the capital, Dhaka, shortly after takeoff on Monday, killing at least 19 people including the pilot and injuring more than 100, officials said.
According to the military and a fire official, the Chinese-made F-7 BGI aircraft crashed into the campus of Milestone School and College, in the Uttara neighborhood, in the afternoon as students were attending classes. The Fire Service and Civil Defense said that at least 19 people, mostly students, died and another 116 were rescued with injuries. A significant number sustained burn injuries.
The government announced a national day of mourning on Tuesday, with flags to fly at half-staff across the country. **AP**

25 nations seek stop to Gaza war

Twenty-five countries including Britain, France and a host of European nations issued a joint statement on Monday saying the war in Gaza "must end now" and Israel must comply with international law.
The foreign ministers of countries including Australia, Canada and Japan said "the suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths" and condemned "the drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food." "The Israeli government's aid delivery model is dangerous," they said. **AP**

Tech giants in tax row with Italy

US tech giants Meta , X and LinkedIn have lodged an appeal against an unprecedented VAT claim by Italy that could influence tax policy across the 27-nation European Union, four sources with direct knowledge of the matter said on Monday.
This is the first time that Italy has failed to reach a settlement agreement after bringing tax cases against tech companies, resulting in a fully-fledged judicial tax trial being launched.
According to the sources, this came about because the case went beyond agreeing on a settlement figure and sought to establish a broader approach focused on how social networks provide access to their services. **Reuters**

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FARNAZ

Select trees based on local air quality, experts suggest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for four parameters: leaf pH, ascorbic acid content, relative water content, and total chlorophyll content.

Air quality data were obtained from monitoring stations operated by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Data on particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), sulfur oxides (SO_x), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) were gathered from stations located in proximity to the plots.

To assess pollution-induced stress on urban vegetation, the Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) was calculated for tree species across different land-use categories.

The results revealed that some species exhibited greater tolerance to air pollution.

Experts say it is important to select tree species based on the local air quality index (AQI) for greening initiatives in Bengaluru. In urban environments—where pollution levels are often elevated— species with high APTI values should be prioritized. This step is critical for the success and sustainability of urban forestry and landscape planning initiatives.

Pollution-tolerant species not only have a higher likelihood of survival in degraded environments but also contribute significantly to mitigating air pollution, reducing urban heat island effects, and enhancing biodiversity.

"Incorporating APTI as a guiding criterion in species selection can improve the resilience and ecological performance of urban green spaces. This approach ensures that planted trees are better adapted to prevailing environmental stresses, thereby maximising the long-term benefits of urban forests. In turn, this supports the development of healthier, greener, and more sustainable cities," said Dr BN Divakara, scientist, Institute of Wood Science and Technology.

Armed and dangerous

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In February, two major incidents shocked the city. On the 23rd, 38-year-old Haider Ali was stabbed over 50 times near Garuda Mall by a gang on bikes. Earlier, on the 8th, 22-year-old Kadamba went on a stabbing spree in Indiranagar while intoxicated, injuring four people including food vendors. He was later arrested.

Another case was reported on April 1 in Hebbagodi, where a notorious offender known as Nepali Manja, with 12 prior cases, was killed with a machete by a drinking companion after a heated argument.

Not just murders

The threat posed by rowdy-sheeters in Bengaluru is no longer limited to targeted killings. A spike in other violent acts carried out openly has added to the public's growing concern. In Nandini Layout, recent CCTV footage showed minor rowdies brazenly wielding machetes in broad daylight, attacking random bystanders and threatening shopkeepers.

Panic gripped Vigneshwara Nagar near the Huliyuramma Temple early Sunday morning after a rowdy-sheeter, identified as Sunny Slim, was seen brandishing a machete and threatening people on the street. CCTV footage captured Sunny roaming around with the weapon, shouting threats like, "If anyone messes with my girl, I'll finish them," while swinging the machete at random passersby.

Frightened residents, alarmed by the chaos, urged police to intervene. Following their complaint, the Byadarahalli police swung into action and arrested Sunny, ending the early morning menace.

In another incident on July 12, Goli Imran, a known rowdy-sheeter from Ashok Nagar, pulled out a dagger inside a Richmond Circle mall when asked to pay for items he had picked up, and fled with the goods. Despite immediate complaints and submission of CCTV footage, the police allegedly failed to act until the video went viral. Only then was an FIR registered and Imran arrested, raising serious questions about delayed enforcement, especially in cases involving habitual offenders.

2 more held in realtor murder case, main accused still absconding

The Bharati Nagar police on Monday arrested two more suspects, Arun Temu of RS Palya and Naveen from Banaswadi, in connection with the July 15 murder of rowdy-sheeter Shivaprakash alias Biklu Shiva, taking the total arrests to seven.

The main accused, Jagadish alias Jagga, remains absconding.

Police have also detained RD Anil for allegedly providing a getaway vehicle. Anil is reportedly related to BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, who is named as accused number five in the FIR.

The MLA, questioned on Saturday over his alleged involvement, has been summoned again for further inquiry on Wednesday.

While police have made some arrests under public and media pressure, their delayed and reactive approach continues to face criticism. In many cases, FIRs were filed only after public outrage erupted online, allowing offenders to slip away.

Despite the Bengaluru police taking proactive steps like intensified patrolling, constant surveillance, and maintaining updated rowdy-sheets, the surge in violent crimes involving rowdy-sheeters points to gaps that need urgent attention.

The Organised Crime Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) has been instrumental in cracking down on underworld operatives, intercepting extortion rackets, and invoking the Goonda Act against repeat offenders. However, the rise in murders, public assaults, and intimidation cases in recent months underscores the need for more focused interventions. Officials say while enforcement is active, a broader, long-term strategy, including community policing, better intelligence, and rehabilitation efforts is essential to address the growing street-level violence.

Woman alleges rape by BJP MLA's son Prateek Chouhan

A 25-year-old woman has accused Karnataka BJP MLA Prabhu Chouhan's son, Prateek Chouhan, of rape and has threatened to commit suicide along with her family if justice is not delivered.

Speaking to the media on Monday, the woman alleged, "Prateek raped me under the pretext of marriage. MLA Prabhu Chouhan, while claiming I am like a daughter to him, has instead defamed me."

"Prateek and I got to know each other through social media. He promised to marry me, and we began spending time together. He took me to a lodge in Bengaluru and raped me. No politician from Bidar is supporting me, I am being helped by the President of the State Women's Commission and Bidar Superintendent of Police Pradeep Gunti," she said.

"After the incident at the Bengaluru lodge, we got engaged. Since then, the marriage has been repeatedly postponed, and the accused and his family have begun questioning my character. Two years after the engagement, they are now defaming me. Prateek exploited me multiple times sexually and had affairs with several other women," she alleged.

She further claimed, "He took me to Shirdi, where he kept me in a room. Despite resistance, he raped me again..."

"I trust the Bidar police will ensure justice is served. If not, my family and I will commit suicide. We are also receiving life threats from MLA Prabhu Chouhan's supporters and need protection..." she said. **BMB**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Noreen Ernest Jeffry, D/o Vara Nageshwararao Ponnuru, residing at NO: 5/1, 1st Floor, 11th cross, Akash Nagar, Near Double Church Road, B N Pura, Dooravani Nagar Post, Bangalore-560016, Karnataka, India, declare that I have changed my name Noreen Ernest Jeffry (Old Name) to Noreen Rao Ponnuru (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as Noreen Rao Ponnuru (New Name) only for Passport purpose, vide affidavit dated: 18/07/2025 sworn to before K.B. Sadhashivappa, Advocate and Notary at Bangalore

I, Chandrashekar.S Resident NO 18, Navarathna Agrahara, Sadahalli, Bengaluru-562110 changed my Minor Son Name from Chandra Prabhu Chandrashekar to C. Abhinav Nayaka for all further purposes. Affidavit dated 31st August 2019. (C full form is Chandrashekar).

I,NIKKIL T N residing at No.636, 4th Main, OMBR Layout, Doddabanaswadi, Bengaluru-560043.I have changed my name to T N NIKHIL. Vide affidavit dated 01/07/2025 sworn before notary. T V BHADRAVIJAYA Bengaluru

I Ragavendra Valagarpura Shamanna S/O, Shamanna Valagarpura Thippaiah R/o No 695 4th Block D Group Lingadeeranahalli, Viswaneedam Post Bengaluru - 560091 have changed my name to Raghavendra Valagarpura Shamanna.

I Saraswathi Nagaraj W/O, Rangaswamy G R/o #30 samvardhana, Netaji Rd, Near Apoorva Apts, D B Sandra, V R Pura Post, Bengaluru 560097 have changed my name to Saraswathi Rangaswamy for all purposes.

I, Babitha Jain D @ Babita Jain Dilip Kumar Jain R/o No.24, Subramanya swamy temple street, v v Puram, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Babita Jain Affidavit Dt.21/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Ramesha Babu S/O, Ramanatha Pool Nanjappa R/o No 273 1st Floor,4th Main 7th Cross,srinivasa Nagar, Banashankari Post, Bengaluru - 560050 have changed my name to Ramesh Babu Pool Ramanatha.

I Nagarathna W/O, Patelappa Pillappa R/o E262, N5/288, 5th Main Chamundeshwari Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore 560097 have changed my name to Nagarathnamma.

I AYESHA A D/o Akbar Pasha R/o No 42 Masjid Road Kambipura Bangalore 560074 have changed my name to AYESHA for all Purposes

I, Kubra Afrooz D/o Afrooz Pasha Chotte R/o No-154, 6th Cross, Amar Layout, D J Halli, Bengaluru- 560045 have Changed my name to Kubra Afroz D/o Afroz Pasha for all purposes

I Maria Thresa George Karthikapallil, W/o, Arun Tom John, Residing At, A5-304, Elita Promenade Apartment, Jp Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru 560078, have changed my name to Maria Teresa George, for all purposes.

I, Satish Kumar Bache Gowda R/o Bijjawara, Devanahalli Tq, Bengaluru rural 562110 have changed my name to Sathish Kumar Bache Gowda. I shall called by this name for all purpose

I CHAITRA V W/O, SHIVA SHANKAR S K R/o No 02-02, Vasudiva Kutumbakam, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Kodigehalli, V R Pura Po, Bengaluru 560097 have changed my name to V CHAITHRA for all purposes.

I Muniyappa Anandaraj S/o C Muniyappa R/o #2 3rd Cross Near Apoorva Apts, Dodda - bommasandra Vidyaranyapura Post B'luru 560097 have changed my name to M Ananda Raju for all purposes.

I, Raunaq S/o Sanjay Sadashiv Nagalotimath R/o #304,plot 222/232,vinitha Paradise, Green Glen Layout,belandur, B'luru 560103 have changed my name to Raunaq Sanjay Nagalotimath for all purposes

I, TUNGA GAJANAN BHAT R/o A-203, Vasundhara Kritika, Outer Ring Road, Opp PES University, Hosakerehalli, BSK-3, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name as TUNGA BHAT for all purposes.

I Afzal Khan S/O, Abdul Gafoor Khan R/o No 4 3rd Cross 9th A Main Btm Layout Above Ada Kurta Collection Btm Layout Stage 1 Bengaluru - 560029 have changed my name to Afzal Ulla Khan.

I, SADIQ AHMED S/o SHAIK HUSSIAN R/o No. 121, 12th Main, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore – 560052 have changed my name to SADIQUE AHMED for all purpose

GALLERIA

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FURRY STRESS-BUSTERS

Dogs are helping people regulate stress even more than expected, research shows

In a 2022 survey of 3,000 U.S. adults, more than one-third of respondents reported that on most days, they feel "completely overwhelmed" by stress. At the same time, a growing body of research is documenting the negative health consequences of higher stress levels, which include increased rates of cancer, heart disease, autoimmune conditions and even dementia.

Assuming people's daily lives are unlikely to get less stressful anytime soon, simple and effective ways to mitigate these effects are needed.

This is where dogs can help.

As researchers at the University of Denver's Institute for Human-Animal Connection, we study the effects animal companions have on their humans.

Dozens of studies over the last 40 years have confirmed that pet dogs help humans feel more relaxed. This would explain the growing phenomenon of people relying on emotional support dogs to assist them in navigating everyday life. Dog owners have also been shown to have a 24% lower risk of death and a four times greater chance of surviving for at least a year after a heart attack.

Now, a new study that we conducted with a team of colleagues suggests that dogs might have a deeper and more biologically complex effect on humans than scientists previously believed. And this complexity may have profound implications for human health.

How stress works

The human response to stress is a finely tuned and coordinated set of various physiological pathways. Previous studies of the effects of dogs on human stress focused on just one pathway at a time. For our study, we zoomed out a bit and measured multiple biological indicators of the body's state, or biomarkers, from both of the body's major stress pathways. This allowed us to get a more complete picture of how a dog's presence affects stress in the human body.

The stress pathways we measured are the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal, or HPA, axis and the sympathoadrenal medullary, or SAM, axis.

When a person experiences a stressful event, the SAM axis acts quickly, triggering a "fight or flight" response that includes a surge of adrenaline, leading to a burst of energy that helps us meet threats. This response can be measured through an enzyme called alpha-amylase.

At the same time, but a little more slowly, the HPA axis activates the adrenal glands to produce the hormone cortisol. This can help a person meet threats that might last for hours or even days. If everything goes well, when the danger ends, both axes settle down, and the body goes back to its calm state.

While stress can be an uncomfortable feeling, it has been important to human survival. Our hunter-gatherer ancestors had to respond effectively to acute stress events like an animal attack. In such instances, over-responding could be as ineffective as under-responding. Staying in an optimal stress response zone maximized humans' chances of survival.

More to the story

After cortisol is released by the adrenal glands, it eventually makes its way into your saliva, making it an easily accessible biomarker to track responses. Because of this, most research on dogs and stress has focused on salivary cortisol alone.

For example, several studies have found that people exposed to a stressful situation have a lower cortisol response if they're with a dog than if they're alone – even lower than if they're with a friend.

While these studies have shown that having a dog nearby can lower cortisol levels during a stressful event, suggesting the person is calmer, we suspected that was just part of the story.

Dogs and human health

This more nuanced understanding of the biological effects of dogs on the human stress response opens up exciting possibilities. Based on the results of our study, our team has begun a new study using thousands of biomarkers to delve deeper into the biology of how psychiatric service dogs reduce PTSD in military veterans.

But one thing is already clear: Dogs aren't just good company. They might just be one of the most accessible and effective tools for staying healthy in a stressful world.

(Kevin Morris and Jaci Gandenberger, University of Denver, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Smartphones before 13 may raise suicidal thoughts, aggression risk in youth: Study

Children who own a smartphone before the age of 13 are more likely to experience poorer mental health and well-being in early adulthood, according to a global study of more than 100,000 young people released on Monday.

The study, published in the Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, found that 18- to 24-year-olds who had received their first smartphone at age 12 or younger were more likely to report suicidal thoughts, aggression, detachment from reality, poorer emotional regulation, and low self-worth.

Smartphones give early social media access and increase the risks of cyberbullying, disrupted sleep, and poor family relationships by adulthood, the team said.

"Our data indicates that early smartphone ownership -- and the social media access it often brings -- is linked with a profound shift in mental health and well-being in early adulthood," said lead author neuroscientist Dr. Tara Thiagarajan, the founder and Chief Scientist of US-based Sapien Labs.

Thiagarajan called for urgent action to protect the mental health of future generations, as their symptoms are not the traditional depression and anxiety, and can be missed by studies using standard screening procedures.

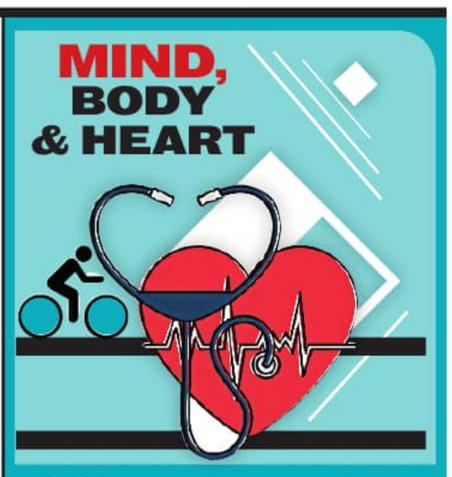
The researchers urged policymakers to adopt a precautionary approach, similar to regulations on alcohol and tobacco, by restricting smartphone access for under-13s. They also called for mandating digital literacy education and enforcing corporate accountability.

In recent years, several countries have banned or restricted the use of cell phones in institutions, including France, the Netherlands, Italy, and New Zealand. Several states in the US have also passed legislation requiring schools to have policies that at least limit access to smartphones for children.

For the study, the team at Sapiens mapped the data on 100,000 young adults using the Mind Health Quotient (MHQ) -- a self-assessment tool that measures social, emotional, cognitive, and physical well-being -- to generate an overall mental health score.

Young adults who received their first smartphone before age 13 had lower MHQ scores, with scores progressively declining the younger the age of first ownership. Younger ownership was also linked with diminished self-image, self-worth, and confidence, and emotional resilience among females, and lower stability, calmness, self-worth, and empathy among males.

"Our evidence suggests that childhood smartphone ownership, an early gateway into AI-powered digital environments, is profoundly diminishing mental health and well-being in adulthood, with deep consequences for individual agency and societal flourishing," Thiagarajan said. —IANS



All you need to know about...

Micromancing

Effort is out

In layman's terms, micromancing is a dating trend where less is... somehow enough. It's the art of doing the least and still calling it love. A meme sent at midnight, a shared playlist, maybe the occasional "good morning" text. These micro acts are now considered meaningful, even romantic. Micromancing does sound cute on the surface – a cute thinking about you reel, a playlist there. Let's be honest, however. This isn't romance, it's relationship minimalism with a rebrand. It's the relationship equivalent of showing up late and still expecting applause.

Problem with this trend

The real problem with micromancing? People are starting to treat it like it's enough. Instead of craving real effort, Gen Z (and honestly, a good chunk of millennials too) are out here romanticising breadcrumbs. He reacts to your story with a flame emoji and disappears for days? Prince Charming, obviously. She sends a five-second voice note saying "omg stop" after your deep 2 AM confession?

Redefine meaning

Micromancing isn't just about simplifying dating – it's slowly redefining what we consider meaningful. It teaches people to settle for less and still feel grateful for it. Grand gestures get swapped for casual replies. Deep conversations get replaced by memes. The bar isn't just low, it's basically underground. A lot of people believe that what makes this trend even more damaging is how it blurs boundaries. There are no clear intentions, no real emotional accountability, and certainly no pressure to define anything. It's perfect for anyone who wants to feel "close" without ever being vulnerable. —Femina

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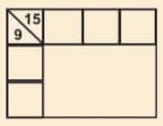
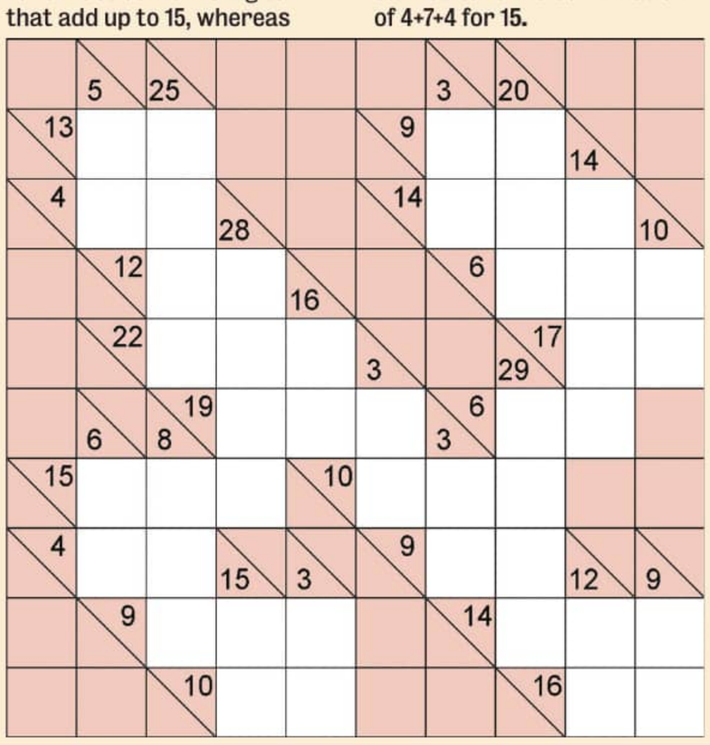
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

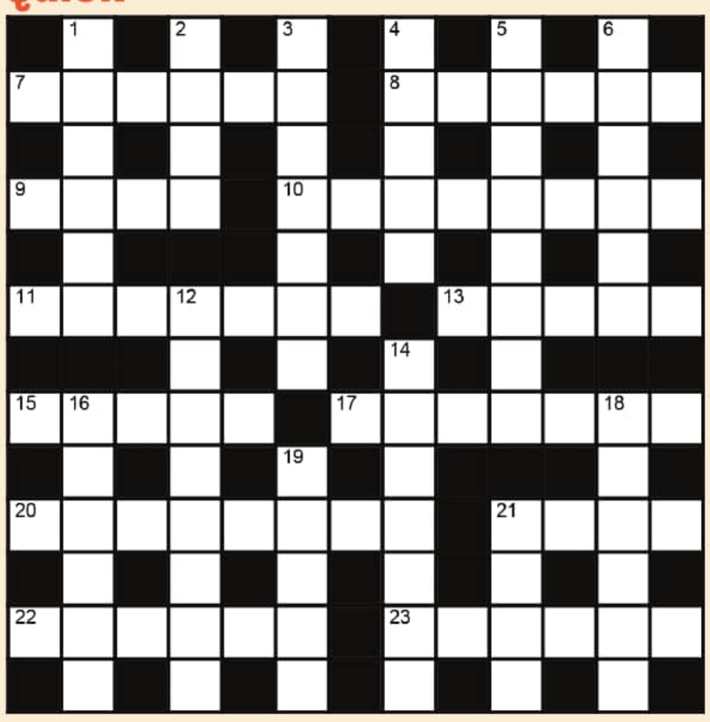
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Easily influenced (6)
8 Walking disorder (6)
9 Egg cell (4)
10 Partial or unfair? (3-5)
11 Was resentfully unwilling to give or to allow? (7)
13 Stop temporarily (5)
15 Fable (5)
17 Share of the spoils (4-3)
20 Amusement park on the Bangalore-Mysore highway (8)
21 Lends a hand (4)
22 A crudely built hut or cabin (6)
23 Large bird (6)

DOWN

1 Dickens' ___ Twist (6)
2 Not excited (4)
3 Foils for comedians (7)
4 Bluffed, counterfeited or shammed (5)
5 Fence made of stakes (8)
6 Pitmen (6)
12 Making fun of, ridiculing (8)
14 Card game similar to rummy (7)
16 Prize (6)
18 Cattle foodstuffs? (6)
19 Entreats or begs (5)
21 An area of land (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS U

FP DZO NTC MZA
CJZAFYAFUNH, DZO RFHH
RCHUZVC AWC ZGGZTAOMFAD
AZ HCNTM VZTC

Linemaro

Is your dad a genie, because you are making my dreams come true

Mindchow

Everybody should do at least two things each day that he hates to do, just for practice

Joke of the day

Except that right-side-up is best, there is not much to learn about holding a baby

Loop

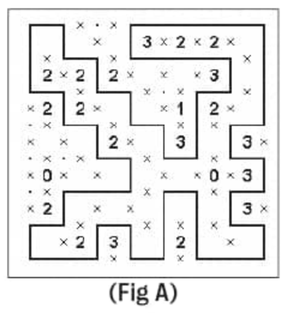
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

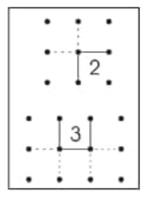
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

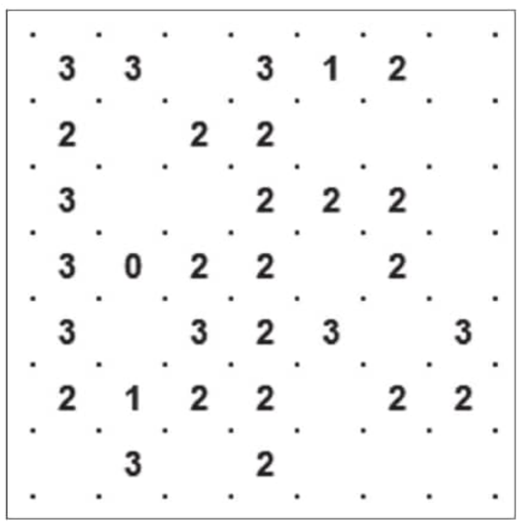
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



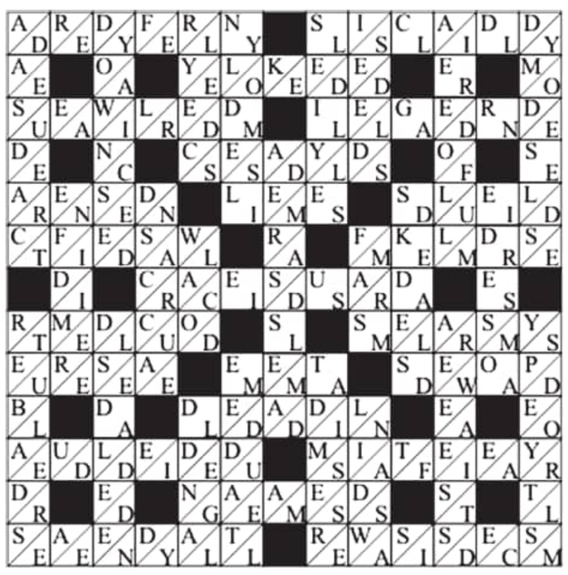
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



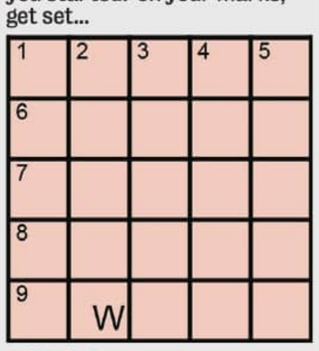
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Oiler; 6 Pen in;
7 A desk; 8 Hamal;
9 Wares

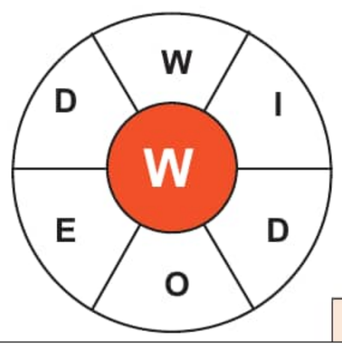
DOWN

1 A posh; 2 Wears;
3 Kline; 4 Ena me;
5 Laird

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

1	3	4	1
2	0	4	8
2	7	5	5
3	4	6	?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			4		9			
	9	2	8		6	5	7	
1				5				8
	1		7		3		4	
		3				6		
	6		5		2		9	
2				4				5
	7	4	3		8	1	6	
			9		5			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12
4 4 5 9

Medium = 18
3 4 5 7

Hard = 64
6 6 7 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

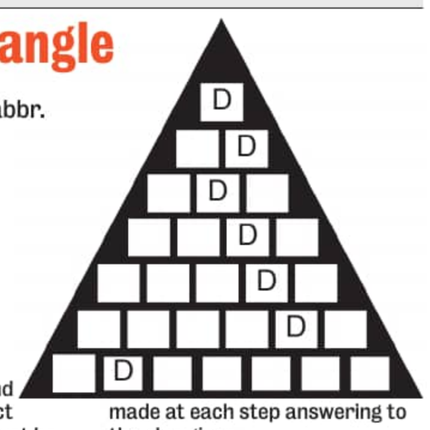
Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Suitcase handle is different. 3. Hat is different. 4. Patch on sleeve is lower. 5. Computer screen is different. 6. Man is thinner.

Riddler

Find the correct words that fit with the following words: Example: Air PORT Wine
1. Birth ___ Light
2. Knock ___ Line
3. Rock _____ Bar

Alpha triangle

1 Fourth letter
2 Advertisement, abbr.
3 Hullabaloo
4 Fizzy water
5 Streets
6 Planks
7 Accumulates on the surface

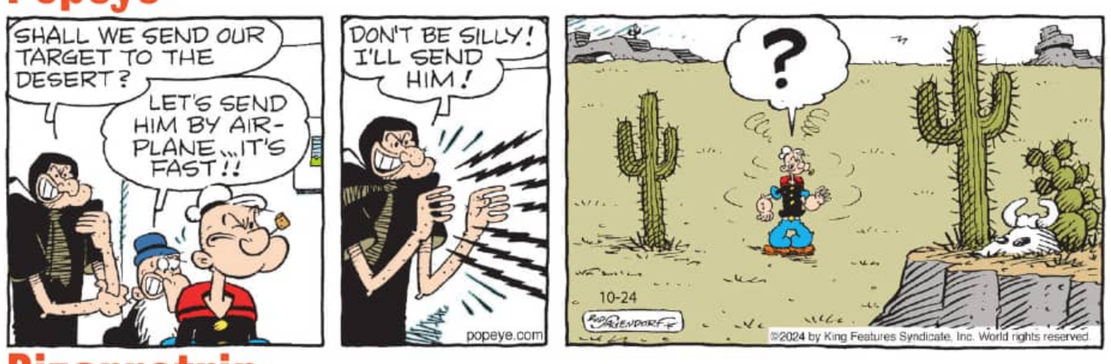


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

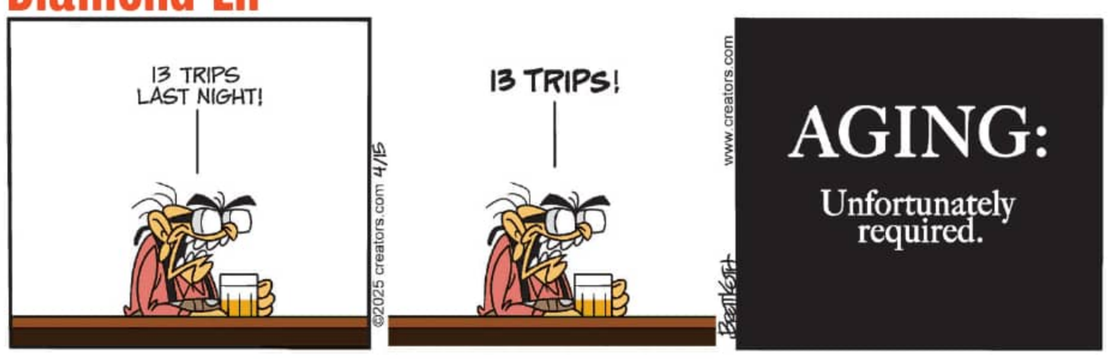
COMICS

Popeye

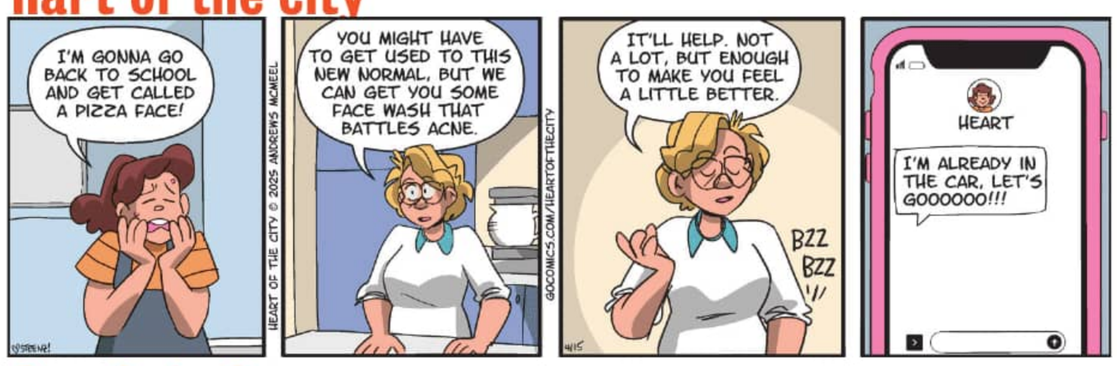


Bizarrotrip

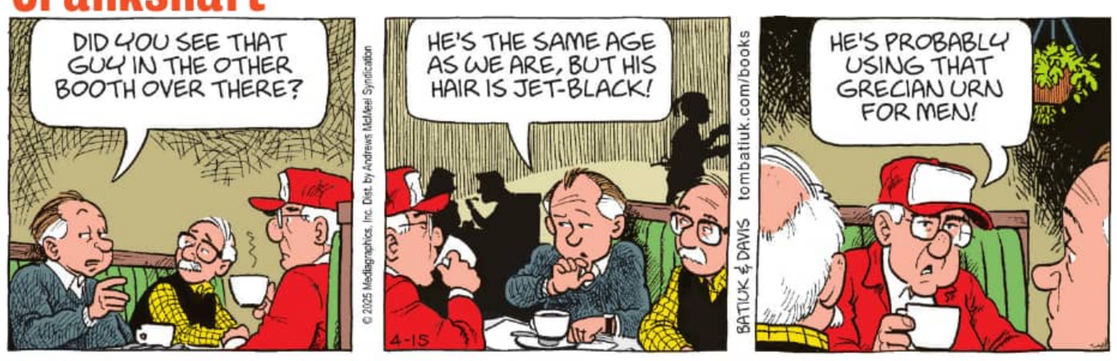
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your communication skills will work in your favour professionally. Being polite with those around you can help accelerate your projects. Lovebirds may share their thoughts openly, laying the foundation for a stronger relationship.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Blessed by the Moon, today looks promising for forming new partnerships, which could bring financial benefits. Your energy and enthusiasm will support your progress. Hard work is likely to pay off. Self-respect will help shield you from negative influences.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You might feel low or dissatisfied today. Avoid harsh conversations with family and friends, as misunderstandings are possible. You may not feel your efforts are being recognised. Trust your intuition and exercise patience before making important decisions.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
New income sources may open up for you today. Past investments could start yielding profits, strengthening your financial position. You may connect with a social or charitable organisation, expanding your network. Singles might meet a potential life partner.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Elders' blessings will boost your confidence. Trusting your intuition could help you make wise professional and financial decisions. A visit to a religious place with family is likely. Managing your temper is essential to maintaining harmony at home. Students may achieve good results, supported by luck.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Quick financial gains in business could lift your confidence and bank balance today. However, avoid letting work stress affect your personal life. Momentum will build at work, enhancing your reputation. An overseas trip might also be in your plans.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today may feel challenging. You could experience low energy and unexplained worries. You might be drawn toward spiritual or mystical subjects. A lack of confidence could affect your work. Avoid reckless driving and risky activities.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
The Moon's blessings favour your personal life today. Love and affection will strengthen relationships. Singles may find a promising match. Support from friends and colleagues will help you perform well professionally.

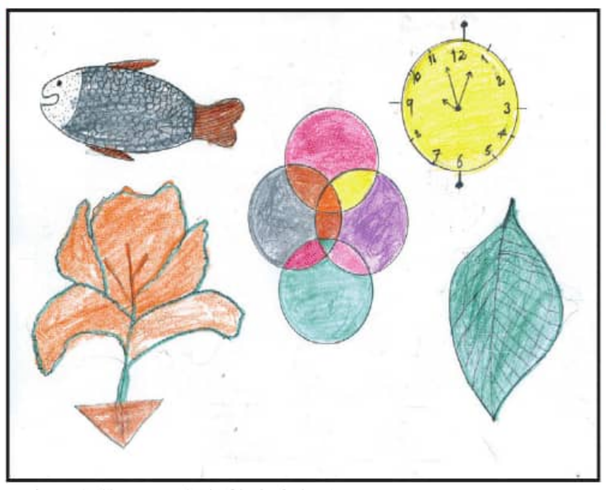
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you'll manage your finances well, balancing earnings and expenses. Professional performance will improve, and new responsibilities or even a promotion may come your way. Stuck payments could be recovered. You'll handle rivals effectively.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Fatigue from lack of sleep may slow you down today. Scattered thoughts could lower your productivity. A visit to a spiritual place may help. By evening, elders' blessings may restore your focus, allowing you to plan more effectively for tomorrow. Pay attention to your parents' health.

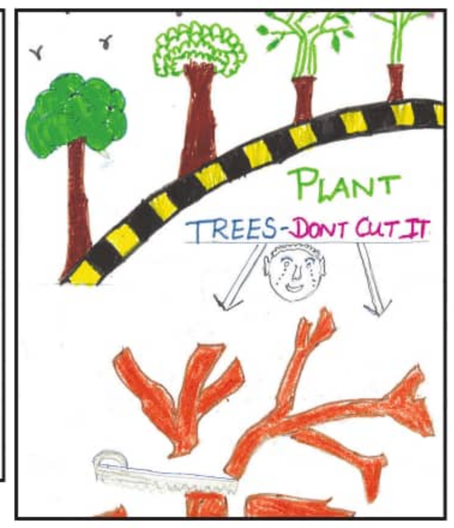
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You might feel rushed today, so drive carefully. With elders' blessings, you'll overcome current challenges. Romantic moments will strengthen your love life, and harmony will return to your household. New partnerships may bring success. Lovebirds will enjoy pleasant times, and students may receive good academic news.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Team support will help you complete delayed tasks today. Participation in social events could expand your network, benefitting both professional and personal life. Outings with friends are likely, and any disputes with them may be resolved. Students should avoid careless mistakes.

KIDZONE



Archana R, 7 years, Little Glady School



Dhruva R,
10 years,
Little Angles
English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
72× (√1/√9) + 100×(√1/√25)
72×⅓ + 100×⅕
24+20=44

BULL'S EYE
owed, wide, widow, WIDOWED

RIDDLER
1. Day, 2. Out, 3. Candy

FAST FIVE

O	R	I	E	L
P	E	N	N	I
A	S	K	E	D
H	A	L	M	A
S	W	E	A	R

QUOTE UNCODE
If you are not egotistical, you will welcome the opportunity to learn more.

STRIKE OUT

S	A	N	D	A	L	■	R	A	I	S	E	S	■	■
R	■	E	■	N	A	M	E	S	■	T	■	T	■	■
B	A	■	L	E	D	■	M	A	T	I	E	R	■	■
E	D	D	I	E	D	■	■	I	N	■	A	■	O	■
U	R	E	A	■	M	E	T	■	S	W	A	P	■	■
T	E	L	C	O	■	S	■	S	L	A	M	S	■	■
■	D	■	C	A	E	S	U	R	A	■	E	■	■	■
T	I	D	A	L	■	A	■	M	E	L	D	S	■	■
R	E	E	D	■	L	M	S	■	D	U	E	L	■	■
E	■	N	■	S	E	A	L	S	■	F	■	E	■	■
S	A	W	R	E	D	■	L	E	G	E	N	D	■	■
E	■	A	■	Y	O	K	E	D	■	R	■	O	■	■
D	R	Y	F	L	Y	■	S	I	C	I	L	Y	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
2. Split the diagram into two halves vertically, consisting of 2 columns of 2 squares each, and read each 2 adjoining squares as a complete 2 digit number. Numbers follow the sequence of multiples of 7, subtracting 1 each time.

SUDOKU

6	8	1	9	7	5	3
5	7	4	3	2	8	9
2	3	9	6	4	1	7
4	6	7	5	8	2	3
8	2	3	1	9	4	6
9	1	5	7	6	3	8
1	4	6	2	5	7	9
3	9	2	8	1	6	5
7	5	8	4	3	9	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, AD, Ado, Soda, Roads, Boards, Adsorbs.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 4 + 9 − 5 = 12
Medium
7 − 4 x 5 + 3 = 18
Hard
6 / 6 + 7 x 8 = 64

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Betting apps case
Actors Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverakonda among 4 summoned by ED in betting apps case

COLOURED VISION

Nawazuddin opens up on stereotypes around the typical cinema hero

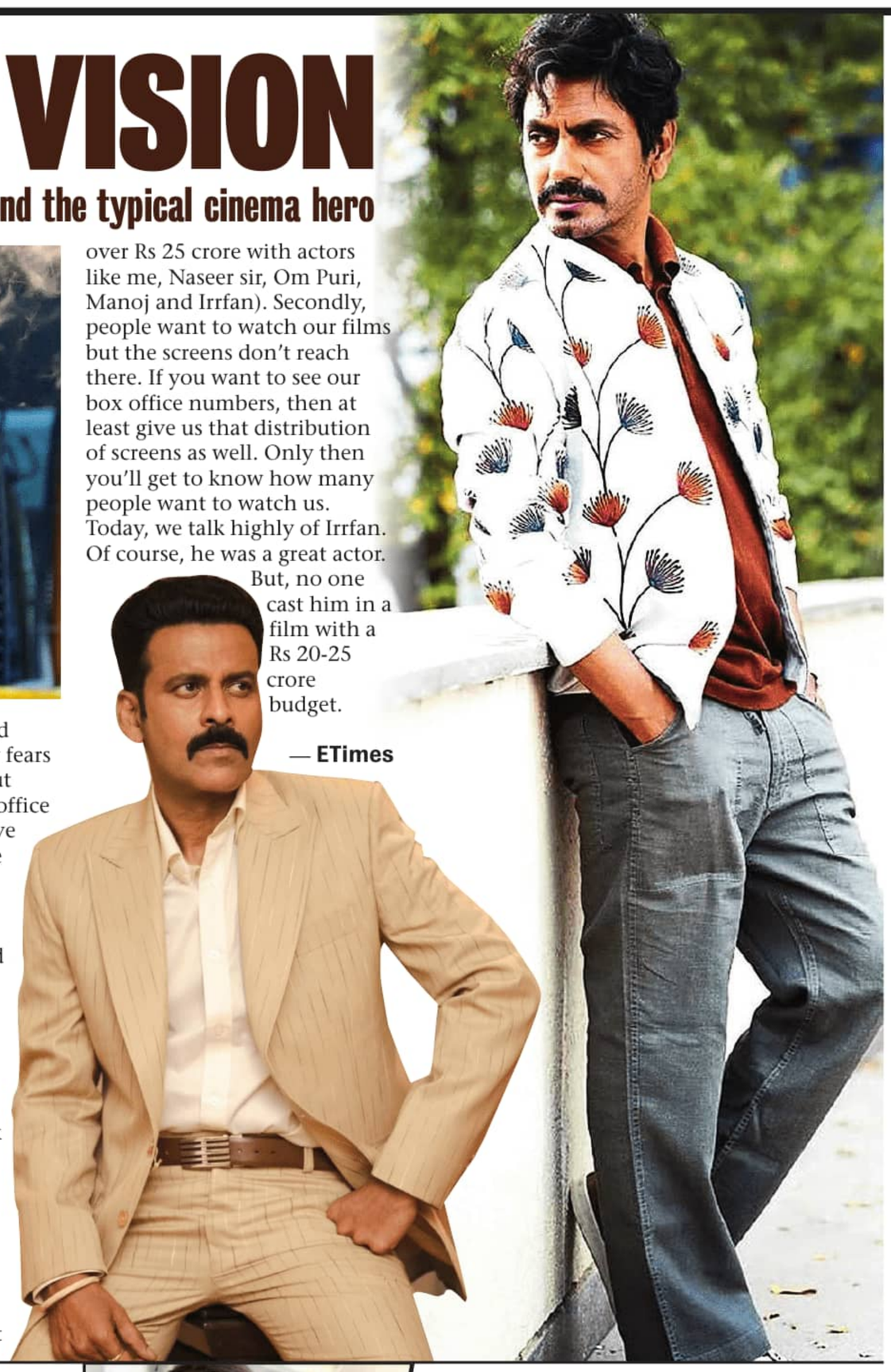
Nawazuddin Siddiqui has always broken stereotypes surrounding the quintessential Hindi cinema hero. In a recent interview, the actor has opened up on his struggles and how he still faces judgements because of his looks.

When asked if he gets bothered by people judging him, he said during a chat with Nayandeep Rakshit, "That I have to face even today. Thankfully, the industry doesn't think like that, but it still exists in society. In my initial days, many people said, 'you don't look like an actor'. That used to make me feel bad. What to do? I am dark, still reached till here, imagine what all I could have done if I was fair."

Nawazuddin also added that he does not have any fears about his career now about being rejected or the box office even. He said, "I don't have any fear. But yes, there are many actors who have been rejected, but keep coming back because of their film background and support system. People like us, me, Manoj Bajpayee or more actors like us, they are not into it…box office, etc. What will you say to Manoj Bajpayee? He is above box office. He is not chasing it."

However, he feels upset about the fact that nobody wants to make a film with actors like him. He added, "Nobody ever made a film with a budget over Rs 25 crore with actors like me, Naseer sir, Om Puri, Manoj and Irrfan). Secondly, people want to watch our films but the screens don't reach there. If you want to see our box office numbers, then at least give us that distribution of screens as well. Only then you'll get to know how many people want to watch us. Today, we talk highly of Irrfan. Of course, he was a great actor. But, no one cast him in a film with a Rs 20-25 crore budget.

— ETimes



Exes turn friends

Sushmita Sen and Rohman Shawl were spotted together at a jewellery brand event. Sushmita appeared in a dazzling blue gown, and joining her was Rohman Shawl. Sen's ex-boyfriend was standing a couple of meters away from the actress, donning a denim shirt and dark blue trousers. Capturing the behind-the-scenes, he even shot Sen's interaction with a woman attendee.

Previously, in a conversation with Times of India, Shawl revealed that he could be spotted at the events with the 49-year-old actress as he accompanies her as a friend and likes to spend time with her. He said, "If the relationship didn't have issues and if you have given so much into the relationship, then why would you run away from it?"

Rohman said he was single but would love to be in a relationship that drives him. **ETimes**

Rumour has it...

Bollywood actors Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya have seemingly confirmed their relationship on Instagram.

Sutaria, known for films such as "Student of the Year 2" and "Marjaavaan", shared a series of pictures alongside rapper-singer AP Dhillon from their song "Thodi Si Daaru" on her Instagram handle on Sunday. But what caught attention was the word exchange between her and Pahariya. The "Sky Force" actor wrote "My", adding star and heart emojis in the comment section of the post, to which Sutaria replied "Mine" with a heart emoji.

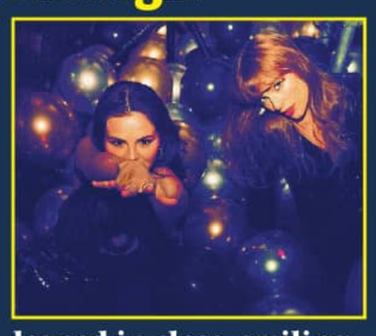
The rumours of the relationship between the actors have been there for a while. The duo also walked as the showstoppers together for the British fashion brand ASOS at the 25th edition of Lakme Fashion Week in March. Pahariya made his acting debut with "Sky Force" alongside Akshay Kumar.

— PTI

Birthday celebrations begin

Actor-singer Selena Gomez is all set to turn 33 on July 22, and it seems like her celebrations have already begun.

The actress took to her Instagram on Monday to share a series of pictures featuring her 'bestie' Taylor Swift. One of the pictures showed her and Swift sitting in a pile of silver balloons. Gomez reached toward the camera while Swift leaned in close, smiling.



The pictures from the pre-birthday bash also showed Gomez sharing loving moments with her fiance Benny Blanco.

In her caption, Gomez reflected on the past year and thanked her fans and friends for their support.

"As I prepare to celebrate my 33rd birthday, I can't help but reflect on the incredible journey that has brought me here. This past year has truly been the most beautiful year of my life, and I owe so much of that to all of you," the post read. —ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

About love

Viraata Bilwa, who has been associated with Sandalwood for more than 10 years, is excited about the release of Love Matteru that is expected to arrive in theatres next month in which he plays the lead.

"I am known for playing small character roles in a few movies, including Ugram in which I played a journalist. I have worked as an assistant and associate director for Kannada movies directed by Soori and KM Chaitanya. I am from Hassan and have been associated with the Kannada film industry for more than a decade," said Bilwa.

He said that he is also directing the movie. "Love Matteru is my maiden movie as an independent director as well as a hero in Sandalwood. I thank all the cast and crew of this movie for ensuring that it turns out well. The movie's shooting was held in Chikkamagaluru, Bengaluru and other beautiful locations for 65 days. The movie explores love and relationships of the current generation," he said. He said that the film has melodious songs.

Big responsibility

Smile Seenu, who handled the megaphone for O My Love, Toofan, and Ballari Darbar, and 18 to 25, is all set to direct a pan-Indian movie. K Manju, known for bankrolling big-budget movies such as Raja Huli, Rama Shama Bhama, Maathaad Mathaad Mallige, and Jameendarru, has decided to bankroll the movie.

"I am grateful to producer K Manju for coming forward to bankroll the movie. He has given me a big responsibility of directing the pan-India movie. I am sure this movie will be a hit not only in Karnataka but across the country because of its plot. Producer Manju appreciated my style of narration," said Seenu.

He said work is in progress on the script and dialogue. "Preparations are being made to start shooting of the movie. We will come out with the date of the launch, details of cast and crew of the movie shortly. I am very happy to direct this movie. I consider this opportunity as a boon for me," he said.

The movie will be Manju's 44th as a producer.